SPORTS

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Tigers Opening Day

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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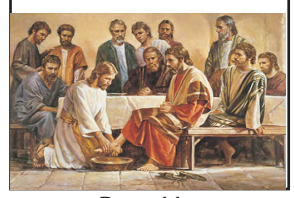
WORLD CULTURES



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Holy Week

La marcha nacional "No Kings" reunió a miles de personas en todo Michigan

Texto y fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz | Fotos adicionales de Bill Deuparon

Un delgado mar de ruido y coloridos carteles ocupó un lado de la avenida Woodward en Detroit. Sus cánticos, gritos y consignas mostraron, una vez más, su rechazo a los excesos autoritarios del presidente Donald Trump, cuya aprobación pública ha caído al 36% según una encuesta de Reuters/IPSOS, el nivel más bajo desde que comenzó su segunda administración. Cuidadosamente contenida y guiada por voluntarios, la multitud de cientos de personas se echó pacíficamente durante varias cuadras, ante la mirada de transeúntes cuyas expresiones iban desde el apoyo y la curiosidad hasta el rechazo absoluto.

La marcha regresó a Grand

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Protester holds a sign stating "We need a kinder world."

Third "No Kings" Demonstrations Gathered Thousands Across Michigan

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz | Additional photos by Bill Deuparon

A rolling sea of noise and colourful signs occupied one side of Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Demonstrators' chants, shouts, and slogans showed one more time their rejection of the authoritarian excesses of President Donald Trump, whose public approval rating has fallen to 36% according to a poll by Reuters/IPSOS, the lowest since his second administration began. Carefully organized and marshaled by volunteers, the mass of thousands of people peacefully advanced for several blocks, in full view of passersby whose expressions ranged from support and curiosity to occasional signs of disapproval.

The marchers returned to

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DFO313's 'Real Talk' Asks "Who Can Afford to Build and Who Can Afford to Buy?"

By Michael D. Gutierrez | Photo credit Brayan Gutierrez

ShaWanna Gajewski builds homes that cost homebuyers about $2,300 a month to finance with a mortgage. The families she builds them for can afford about $1,600. Nobody in the room at DFO313's second Real Talk panel on March 26 needed a calculator to see the problem. "Who bridges that gap?" Gajewski asked. "That's the hard part."

DFO313's Real Talk series, launched in February by AGI Construction co-founders Tanya Saldivar-Ali and Luis Ali, brings contractors, developers, and community members together for unfiltered conversations about the systems that shape who gets to build in Detroit. The first session featured developer Richard Hosey breaking down the financing structures that keep local contractors off major job sites. The second – co-hosted by Invest Detroit and held at the Jefferson Hub in Midtown – turned to affordable housing, with Gajewski and D'Marco Ansari as guest speakers and Saldivar-Ali moderating.

Gajewski is the CEO of Gajewski Homes, LLC and one of the few licensed Black female home builders in Michigan. She is currently leading a $21 million development in Inkster, building 72 single-family homes in a city that hadn't seen new housing construction in over 20 years. She got the project off the ground using a combination of modular and stick-built construction that brought her cost down to about $200 per square foot, well below the $300 per square foot that the City of Detroit now uses as its benchmark.

The modular approach saves money and time. A 1,400 to 1,500 square foot modular unit costs her around $98,000. While the factory builds the house, her crews pour the foundation and run utilities on site. A crane sets the boxes on the foundation, and her local tradespeople finish the roof, siding, brick, and garage. She said the method still supports the local labor force.

It took her three years from seeing the plot of land to putting a shovel in the ground. She pitched her project to at least 40 lenders before she found two who said "yes".

"I was desperate at first," Gajewski told the audience. "And then I got fed up and flipped it: 'I want to share my project with you. I know it's a great project. Do you have time to listen to it?'"

Ansari, the West Region Development Director for the City of Detroit's public-private partnership team and founder of Springboard Holdings Detroit, laid out the cost trajectory. In 2020, the City of Detroit estimated it cost about $225 per square foot to build a house. Today that number is $300. That means a modest three-bedroom home, around 1,000 square feet, costs $300,000 just to construct. The National Home Builders Association reported in February that 47.5 million households across the country can only afford a home priced at $200,000 or less. The big takeaway: the people who need the houses can't afford what it costs to build them.

"There's always a conversation about single-family infill," Ansari said. "But I don't know if the mechanisms are fully there to create it, which means we have to get very creative."

Building the house is only half the problem, Ansari said. On the buyer side, credit scores and income thresholds knock out families who qualify for down payment assistance on paper but can't get a mortgage in practice. Redlining

L-R Tanya Saldivar-Ali, ShaWanna Gajewski, and D'Marco Ansari

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DFO313's 'Real Talk' Asks "Who Can Afford to Build and Who Can Afford to Buy?"

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in lending is not history. He pointed to Fifth Third Bank, which paid out $18 million in settlement fees in 2015 for discriminatory auto loan pricing against Black and Hispanic borrowers.

Ansari flipped the room's assumption about who belongs in development. Most contractors think developers have some knowledge they don't, but Ansari said it's the other way around. "You probably are better positioned to do development than a developer is to do construction," he said, alluding to how a developer sitting in a preliminary plan review who gets asked a technical question about the actual building often can't answer it.

The second installment in the Real Talk series brought together a city housing official and a licensed builder to break down why it costs more to build a home than most Detroit families can pay, and what it will take to close that gap.

His advice was to start with what they already know. Buy a house, rehab it, rent it, and do it again five or ten times. Now you have a portfolio, you have equity, and when you sit down with a banker you're not asking for a favor. You're showing them what you've already built, he said.

L-R ShaWanna Gajewski, Tanya Saldivar-Ali, D'Marco Ansari, and Luis Ali

Kendra Paul, owner of Skill Set Construction and Landscaping and a licensed builder since 2018, pushed back from the audience. She submitted her CRIO* minority business certification paperwork two years ago and never got a response. When she followed up at a meeting, they confirmed they had her paperwork and told her to resubmit everything. The resources the panelists recommended, she said, don't always work the way they're supposed to.

It was a point Ansari addressed head on. "What you've described is a gatekeeper who blocked you from getting certified," he said. "That is not what's supposed to happen." He told her the city works for her, and if one door closes, go to the next. "Go floor to floor if you have to."

Rodnesha Ross, executive director of Youth Community Agency, asked how nonprofits can get the same access as for-profit developers. She said she gets calls at three and four in the morning from families sleeping in their cars. Ansari told her to reframe her approach. "Coming in as 'a nonprofit with property' is a very different conversation from 'a community development organization seeking to do larger housing development,'" he said.

The Real Talk series continues with two more sessions at locations to be confirmed. April 16 focuses on operations and May 21 on sustainability. DFO313 is fundraising to extend programming into the fall. Upcoming events are listed at www.dfo313.org.

"Housing is a pathway, not a product," Saldivar-Ali said at the close. "Think about how we are really building generational wealth for our people."

*City of Detroit Civil Rights, Opportunity and Inclusion Department

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This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

NALAC Unveils 'A Mirror and a Map' Research Report and Website to Support the Latinx/é Arts and Culture Field

SAN ANTONIO, TX, March 31, 2026 – The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) announces the release of their research report, "A Mirror and a Map: Nurturing Organizational Realities and Navigating Change among Latinx/é Arts and Culture Organizations," and an accompanying website. From insight to implementation, NALAC's new research, toolkit, and website equip arts and cultural leaders to shape what comes next.

"NALAC has dedicated over two years to the development of 'A Mirror and a Map' research report, website, and toolkit. We are grateful to The Wallace Foundation and NORC at the University of Chicago, whose support made this project possible," said NALAC CEO and President Mari Hernandez. "Most importantly, we would like to thank those who shared their work, experiences, and voices to help guide this research, which recognizes the realities of Latinx/é arts and culture organizations."

The research report was developed from responses to the NALAC 2024 National Latinx/é Arts and Culture Survey, which collected data from 493 unique Latinx/é arts and culture organizations across the U.S., including Puerto Rico.

The report addresses a critical gap by providing a comprehensive view of post-2020 realities that Latinx/é organizations face related to capacity, programs, finances, and sustainability, while also providing insights that can empower advocacy efforts, inform funding strategies, and influence policy decisions that impact arts communities. Survey responses highlight both the strengths and challenges faced by the Latinx/é arts and culture field; these insights directly guided the development of the report, website, and toolkit.

"The survey results, narrative report, and interactive website vividly paint the post-2020 landscape of Latinx/é arts and culture organizations. Data and analysis render how these orgs navigate shifting terrain, as well as systemic barriers they encounter," shared NALAC Director of Programs Cat Rodríguez. "Latinx/é arts leaders and artists, we hope that you will find these interactive and downloadable resources handy in putting data to your experiences and locating yourself within a larger panorama. For funders, arts advocates, policymakers, and beyond, this publicly accessible information provides both a nuanced view from within while highlighting poignant opportunities to collaborate with and meet the needs of our sector."

The research report was utilized to create a corresponding website which houses interactive data and a resource toolkit designed to serve as both a mirror and a map: a mirror that reflects the stories, realities, and voices of Latinx/é arts and culture workers and organizations and a map that offers data, tools, and resources to help guide decision-makers as they work to strengthen infrastructure, expand opportunities, advocate for support, and build collaboration.

To learn more about the survey data, research report, and toolkit resources available through "A Mirror and a Map," please visit the website: www.mirrorandmap.nalac.org.

About NALAC

The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) is the nation's premier nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to the promotion, advancement, development, and cultivation of the Latino arts field. For more information about NALAC and its programs, please visit www.nalac.org.

Mary Sheffield's Historic Win Gives Detroit Women a Reason to Celebrate—and Organize

Story and photos by Michael D. Gutierrez

Four generations of Detroit women filled the IBEW hall in Corktown on March 19 to celebrate a milestone that was 325 years in the making. Under the banner "Detroit Women: Power, Grit and Grace," Citizen Detroit turned Mayor Mary Sheffield's historic election as the city's first woman mayor into a full evening of civic programming at the IBEW hall.

The dinner and dialogue paired a panel discussion with a custom board game and a personal civic action card that asked each attendee to pledge one public act within the next eight weeks. Sheffield won with 72 percent of the vote in a year that saw a 3.5 percent increase in turnout for a mayoral race, becoming the first woman and first Black woman elected mayor in Detroit's history.

Sheila Cockrell, CEO of Citizen Detroit, has led the nonpartisan organization since its founding in 2012, building programming around giving Detroiters access to information, candidates and tools for civic participation.

Deputy City Clerk Andre Gilbert opened the formal program with a call for poll

workers ahead of a packed 2026 election cycle, and Natalie Bien-Aime, representing the Detroit Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., announced the sorority's new Adopt-a-Voter Precinct initiative targeting two low-turnout precincts on the city's east and west sides.

Cockrell moderated a panel of four women spanning multiple generations of Detroit civic life. Dr. Geneva Williams, the first board chair of Citizen Detroit, and veteran political organizer Marseille Allen spoke alongside Dominique Campbell, a rapper, activist and consultant, and Kayla Rice, who managed Sheffield's social media and communications during her years on city council.

Williams warned that "if the celebration just stays for the moment and doesn't become a movement, it doesn't matter," and Allen added the community has to protect Sheffield's authority by controlling the narrative around her administration. "Before she was a mayor, she was a Black woman," Allen said, "and we get attacked from the outside a lot. We don't need to be attacking each other."

"If you were the person that said, oh, what I would have done back in the day during the Civil Rights Movement, well, now is the time to show up," said rapper Campbell, drawing on a line from one of her own songs. Rice, who managed Sheffield's communications during her council years, said the mayor already lives that way—if a resident left one comment asking why they hadn't seen her, Sheffield would be there the next day. "Not everybody is meant to run for office," Rice said, "but there are lanes that everybody can choose to be a part of something bigger than themselves."

After the panel, the room shifted to the board game. Designed by Citizen Detroit, the game walks players through the lives of Detroit women dating back to the indigenous women who were here before European settlers arrived in 1701. Trailblazer cards highlight elected officials, organizers, educators, artists and entrepreneurs across every era of the city's history.

The evening was co-sponsored by the Lambda Pi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., whose president Crystal Sewell presented Citizen Detroit with a $2,000 check to support continued programming. Additional partners included the Tau Alpha Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the Detroit Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and the League of Women Voters of Detroit.

Gabrielle Ragland brought her daughter Isabella and said too much of Detroit's history, especially the contributions of women, goes untold. "I want to raise my children… to understand the importance of women in politics, women in governance, and women in communities," Ragland said. Volunteer facilitator Alexandrea Murphy, Cockrel's niece, moderated a table where multiple generations sat together, from grandparents to Ragland's six-year-old. "I didn't see anyone leave tonight without a smile on their face," said Murphy.

According to Cockrell, the number of evaluation forms and civic action cards filled out was the largest Citizen Detroit has ever collected at a single event. "People know that there's a requirement for all of us to engage differently, bigger," she said. "Whatever it is we're doing, we need to be all taking the next step."

Citizen Detroit convierte el Mes de la Historia de la Mujer en un llamado a la acción en Corktown

Por Michael D. Gutierrez

Cuatro generaciones de mujeres de Detroit llenaron el salón del sindicato IBEW en Corktown el pasado 19 de marzo para celebrar un logro que tardó 325 años en llegar. Bajo el lema "Detroit Women: Power, Grit and Grace" (Mujeres de Detroit: Poder, Firmeza y Gracia), Citizen Detroit convirtió la elección histórica de la alcaldesa Mary Sheffield como la primera mujer en ocupar el cargo en una noche completa de programación cívica.

La cena y diálogo combinó un panel de discusión con un juego de mesa diseñado especialmente para la ocasión y una tarjeta de acción cívica personal que pedía a cada asistente comprometerse con un acto público dentro de las siguientes ocho semanas. Sheffield ganó con el 72 por ciento de los votos en un año que registró un aumento de 3.5 por ciento en la participación electoral para una contienda por la alcaldía, convirtiéndose en la primera mujer y la primera mujer negra electa alcaldesa en la historia de Detroit.

Sheila Cockrell, directora ejecutiva de Citizen Detroit, ha liderado la organización apartidista desde su fundación en 2012, creando programas que dan a los residentes de Detroit acceso a información, candidatos y herramientas para la participación cívica.

El secretario adjunto del registro civil Andre Gilbert abrió el programa formal con un llamado a reclutar funcionarios de casilla de cara a un cargado ciclo electoral en 2026, y Natalie Bien-Aime, en representación del Capítulo de Egresadas de Detroit de la hermandad Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., anunció la nueva iniciativa "Adopt-a-Voter Precinct" de la organización, enfocada en dos casillas con baja participación en el este y el oeste de la ciudad.

Cockrell moderó un panel de cuatro mujeres que abarcó múltiples generaciones de la vida cívica de Detroit. La Dra. Geneva Williams, primera presidenta de la mesa directiva de Citizen Detroit, y la veterana organizadora política Marseille Allen participaron junto a Dominique Campbell, rapera, activista y consultora, y Kayla Rice, quien manejó las redes sociales y comunicaciones de Sheffield durante sus años en el concejo municipal.

Williams advirtió que "si la celebración se queda solo en el momento y no se convierte en un movimiento, no sirve de nada," y Allen dijo que la comunidad tiene que proteger la autoridad de Sheffield controlando la narrativa alrededor de su administración. "Antes de ser alcaldesa, era una mujer negra," dijo Allen, "y nos atacan mucho desde afuera. No necesitamos estar atacándonos entre nosotras."

"Si eras de los que decían, ay, lo que yo hubiera hecho en aquellos tiempos del Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles, pues ahora es el momento de actuar," dijo la rapera Campbell, retomando una línea de una de sus propias canciones. Rice, quien manejó las comunicaciones de Sheffield durante sus años en el concejo, dijo que la alcaldesa ya vive así: si un vecino dejaba un solo comentario preguntando por qué no la habían visto por su rumbo, Sheffield se presentaba al día siguiente. "No todos tienen que lanzarse a un cargo público," dijo Rice, "pero hay caminos para que todos puedan ser parte de algo más grande que ellos mismos."

Gabrielle Ragland and daughter Isabella, 6

Después del panel, el salón pasó al juego de mesa. Diseñado por Citizen Detroit, el juego lleva a los jugadores por las vidas de mujeres de Detroit desde las mujeres indígenas que estaban aquí antes de que llegaran los colonizadores europeos en 1701. Las tarjetas de "Trailblazers" (Pioneras) cubren funcionarias electas, organizadoras, educadoras, artistas y emprendedoras de cada época en la historia de la ciudad.

La noche fue copatrocinada por el capítulo Lambda Pi Omega de la hermandad Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., cuya presidenta Crystal Sewell entregó a Citizen Detroit un cheque de $2,000 dólares para apoyar la continuación de sus programas. Otros socios incluyeron el capítulo Tau Alpha Omega de Alpha Kappa Alpha, el Capítulo de Egresadas de Detroit de Delta Sigma Theta y la Liga de Mujeres Votantes de Detroit.

Gabrielle Ragland llevó a su hija Isabella y dijo que demasiado de la historia de Detroit, especialmente las contribuciones de las mujeres, no se cuenta. "Quiero criar a mis hijos para que entiendan la importancia de las mujeres en la política, en el gobierno y en las comunidades," dijo Ragland. La facilitadora voluntaria Alexandrea Murphy, sobrina de Cockrell, moderó una mesa donde convivieron múltiples generaciones, desde abuelos hasta la hija de seis años de Ragland. "No vi a nadie irse esta noche sin una sonrisa en la cara," dijo Murphy.

Según Cockrell, la cantidad de formularios de evaluación y tarjetas de acción cívica que se llenaron fue la más grande que Citizen Detroit ha recopilado en un solo evento. "La gente sabe que hay una necesidad de que todos participemos de manera diferente, con más fuerza," dijo. "Hagamos lo que hagamos, todos tenemos que dar el siguiente paso."

Detroit Youth Can Now Register for Summer Jobs Openings: 2026 GDYT Application Portal Now Open

Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT), the City's official summer jobs program for local youth is now open and accepting applications to participate in this six-week program.

The GDYT program is hosted annually to connect Detroit youth, ages 14-24, to summer employment. Participants will work with corporate employers, small businesses, community organizations and partners throughout the Metro Detroit area, and across a wide range of City of Detroit departments.

"Grow Detroit's Young Talent is more than just a summer job program — it's an investment in the future of our city's youth," said Mayor Mary Sheffield. "By providing meaningful work opportunities, we're equipping young Detroiters with valuable experiences to help them succeed in their careers and in life. This year, up to 8,000 young people will have the opportunity to prepare for bright futures."

The goal of the program is to help cultivate on-the-job experience for the next generation of talent and provide opportunities for local youth to build valuable workforce readiness skills.

The program has become an invaluable resource for young Detroiters who are approaching the end of high school and looking to move into post-secondary education or a career. For older youth, the ability to gain experience across a range of industries allows them to make better-informed career choices.

The GDYT program is managed by Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) as the lead implementation agency and fiduciary for Detroit at Work. DESC partners with a wide range of employers, foundations, philanthropic donors and community partners to produce workforce development programs like GDYT and many others.

Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation also administers the Detroit at Work program on behalf of the City of Detroit. Connect Detroit is DESC's contracted Coordinator and Implementation Partner working with key community and faith-based organizations, municipal departments, and the Junior Police and Fire Cadets.

The application portal can be found at www.GDYT.org, and will remain open through May 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. It serves as a starting point for any Detroit youth 14-24 looking to participate, as well as for any employer, philanthropic or community partners who would like to take part in this year's program.

Process for Successful Youth Applicants

After an individual expresses interest in a summer work experience through GDYT.org, the applicant will be randomly selected through a lottery system. Selected youth must complete all enrollment forms and upload the required documents into the CareerEdge portal. All properly registered and eligible Detroit GDYT youth will receive a minimum of 12 hours of work-readiness pre-training before the start of their summer employment. In early May, selected partners will have the opportunity to interview youth candidates at a GDYT-sponsored career fair for Career Pathways Internships, Industry-Led Training, and Pre-Apprenticeships. Eligible youth may also select their own summer work experience during our virtual Career Fair in June. Successful GDYT-registered youth will also attend a Youth Orientation where they will receive additional materials regarding timekeeping, benchmark achievements, and the GDYT Handbook. For more information about the youth applicant process, refer to GDYT's Roadmap to Success at www.GDYT.org.

Partnering with GDYT

Funding for GDYT every year comes from several sources, including the City of Detroit, local employers, foundations, and many individual private donors. More information can be found at GDYT.org and those interested in supporting the program can do so in several ways:

- Become a Funding Partner by making a financial contribution to the GDYT program to support summer work experiences for Detroit youth.
- Become an Employer Partner by providing a job at your designated worksite and sponsoring a six-week paid work experience (120 hours).
- Be recognized as an Affiliate Partner by directly hiring youth through an existing summer program that you operate.
- Volunteer to support key program components (career fairs, work-readiness training, etc.)
- Explore options to provide year-round and/or permanent employment opportunities to Detroit youth.

About GDYT

Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) is a citywide training and employment program for young adults between the ages of 14 and 24. The program provides youth summer employment opportunities in partnership with metro Detroit corporations, non-profit organizations, municipal departments, local businesses, and the philanthropic community. The strategic goals of GDYT are:

- Ensure young adults have meaningful summer work experiences that create pathways to future opportunities.
- Connect young adults to providers and employers that can support their career goals.
- Introduce employers to the next generation of Detroit's workforce.
- Align Detroit's youth workforce development programs to streamline service delivery and improve outcomes.

"At DTE, we believe one of the most meaningful investments we can make is in Detroit's young people," said Joi Harris, president and chief executive officer, DTE Energy. "Grow Detroit's Young Talent helps students explore careers, build real-world skills and see what's possible for their future—right here in their own city. We're proud to keep this partnership going as we help develop the next generation of leaders, and we encourage other employers to join us in expanding opportunities and strengthening Detroit's workforce."

"Each summer, Grow Detroit's Young Talent demonstrates what is possible when a city invests intentionally in its young people," said Council President James Tate Jr. "Through this partnership between the City of Detroit, our business community, nonprofit partners, and philanthropic leaders, up to 8,000 Detroit youth will gain meaningful work experience, mentorship, and a vision for their future. This year's kickoff reflects Mayor Sheffield's commitment to a true cradle-to-career pathway for Detroiters. I strongly believe that when we expose our young people early to opportunity—especially in high-demand fields like the skilled trades—we are not only preparing them for good-paying careers, we are strengthening the future workforce and economic vitality of our entire city."

"GDYT helps Detroit youth earn real money and gain real skills, while working with real companies in the City of Detroit," said Mary Waters, City of Detroit Councilmember At-Large. "Each year of my term, I've employed students in my office through GDYT, and all of them have gone on to have careers with agencies such as State of Michigan, City of Detroit, and beyond. It is truly an honor each year to kick off the application period and Grow Detroit's Young Talent!"

Mayor Mary Sheffield announced the opening of the 2026 GDYT Application Portal at DTE Energy's headquarters on March 13, 313 Day. Photo by: Dante Rionda

"Programs like Grow Detroit's Young Talent are essential to building strong, thriving communities. By creating early access to meaningful work experiences, we help young people see what's possible for their futures—while strengthening the talent pipeline our city and region depend on," said Catherine Susko, Henry Ford Health's VP, HR Planning, Development & Belonging. "At Henry Ford Health, we believe opportunity changes lives, and when we invest in young talent, we're not just supporting summer employment—we're helping to build confidence, skills, and pathways that benefit individuals, families, and our entire community."

"Detroit at Work has a variety of workforce development programs designed to provide valuable resources for Detroit residents," said Terri Weems, Interim President of DESC and Director of the Mayor's Workforce Development Board and Detroit at Work. "Whether in high school, transitioning out of education, or changing career paths, we want to provide residents — including youth — with opportunities to make career choices with confidence while supporting work readiness and enhanced skills training."

- Grow Detroit's Young Talent portal is open for youth to apply at GDYT.org through May 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
- Employers and partners can also sign up via the same website to sponsor youth workers
- The GDYT program has provided more than 87,000 summer work experiences for Detroit youth since 2015.

GDYT:
Making an IMPACT!
CITY OF DETROIT
Grow Detroit's Young Talent
BENEFITS of youth work-based learning and employment experiences:
• Increase Career awareness and exploration
• Develop in-demand skills
• Increase academic motivation
• Expand social and professional networks
• Strengthen confidence and self-efficacy
• Spark economic growth
• Support for at-risk/vulnerable youth
• Employers benefit from talent pipeline
• Stabilizes community workforce population
11 Years of GDYT SUCCESS:
Total # of work experiences 87,734
Total # of youth receiving long-term employment 1,861
Total # of youth completing industry-led trainings 4,797
Program Enhancement OPPORTUNITIES:
1 Begin the program two weeks earlier to meet employer demand, increase work readiness training to include life skills and provide more resources to youth participants.
2 Police and fire cadet programs to focus on true exposure to public safety careers and community policing activities.
3 Expand career exploration activities via tours and job shadowing.
4 Provide more opportunities for youth at risk for violent engagements.
Crime Data:
Types of crimes:
• Aggravated assaults
• Carjackings
• Homicides
• Non-fatal shootings
• Robberies
• Sexual assaults
Time of year:
April – July
52%
Spike in 2025
AGES ▸ Definition of "juvenile" and or "youth" ▸ 17 years and younger
gdyt.org

Third Round of Down Payment Assistance Program Launched to Promote Home Ownership

Building on the success of the first two rounds of Detroit's popular Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Program, Mayor Mary Sheffield and the Housing and Revitalization Department (HRD) recently announced the opening of Round 3 applications. Over the past two years, the program already has created nearly 800 first time homeowners in Detroit, most of which have gone from being renters to becoming owners.

This third round will provide up to $25,000 in down payment and prepaid cost assistance to eligible Detroit residents, with expanded prioritization for households impacted by the August 2023 flooding disaster. Round 3 is funded with $1.7 million in HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and $8.77 million in CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds, allowing the City to assist up to 450 new homebuyers across Detroit.

"Few things are as meaningful to a family as owning their own home. Not only does it provide stability and security that doesn't come with renting, it's a major way to build generational family wealth," said Mayor Sheffield. "Detroit once led the nation in single family home ownership, and the Down Payment Assistance Program can help us move back in that direction.

The announcement took place at Crowell Recreation Center in District 1, which had the highest concentration of homes purchased through the first two rounds of the program. District 6 in Southwest Detroit had one of the lowest utilization rates for the first two rounds.

Building on Proven Success

Launched in March 2023, the Detroit DPA Program has already awarded assistance to 794 households across its first two phases, helping Detroiters overcome upfront costs and access sustainable homeownership. The average DPA award was nearly $25,000, with participating households averaging $970 per month in total mortgage costs, well below typical rental rates in the region. Buyers in the program also have a much higher success rate

What's New in Phase III

Phase III introduces several programmatic updates aligned with federal CDBG and CDBG-DR requirements while maintaining the program's core goal of helping low- and moderate-income Detroiters purchase a home.

Key updates include:

- Income eligibility capped at 80% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Lower housing cost burden requirement, with a maximum 30% payment-to-income ratio

Most notably, residents impacted by the August 2023 flooding disaster will be prioritized during Phase III. Applicants can demonstrate flood impact by providing either a FEMA claim or a Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) claim, ensuring that households with verified disaster-related losses can more quickly access assistance.

"The City of Detroit's efforts to increase homeownership for new homebuyers is a key part of HUD's mission," said Keith Hernández, Director of Community Planning and Development. "We are excited to be partners in this endeavor and will to continue to support the city's ongoing commitment to strengthen neighborhoods."

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for Phase III of the Detroit Down Payment Assistance Program, applicants must:

- Be a Detroit resident for at least 12 months, or have lost a home to property tax foreclosure between 2010 and 2016
- Have not owned a home in the past three years
- Meet income limits at or below 80% AMI
- o The total household income for applicants cannot exceed the following income limits per household size (please see HH Size chart below)
- Be pre-qualified for a mortgage with a participating lender
- Have a signed purchase agreement
- Complete a HUD-approved homebuyer education course

Flood-impacted applicants who meet these requirements will receive priority consideration as part of the City's long-term disaster recovery strategy. To demonstrate impacts, residents will need to submit a Detroit Water and Sewage Department claim or a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claim.

Strengthening Neighborhoods Through Homeownership

Administered by the City of Detroit's Housing and Revitalization Department, Phase III of the DPA Program supports the City's broader housing strategy by pairing homebuyer assistance with counseling, education, and financial empowerment services.

"Down payment assistance is one of the most effective tools we have to reduce housing cost burden and stabilize neighborhoods," said Julie Schneider, Director of the Housing and Revitalization Department. "By leveraging CDBG and CDBG-DR funds, we're ensuring that Detroiters—especially those impacted by the flooding in 2023—have a real pathway to safe, affordable homeownership."

"Homeownership is the single most impactful generational wealth builder, and we are thrilled to see more DPA funds deployed in Detroit," said Aaron Hall, vice president of the Detroit Market for CHN Housing Partners, network manager of the Detroit Housing Network (DHN). "We are proud to partner with the City of Detroit and National Faith Homebuyers to connect Detroiters with homebuyer education and counseling and assist eligible residents in applying for down payment assistance."

The program is being implemented by National Faith Homebuyers, a Detroit-based nonprofit that since 1996 has assisted metro Detroiters in buying a house or staying in their homes, including down-payment assistance, first-time homebuyer counseling, and financial literacy programs.

"Homeownership changes lives. Through the City of Detroit's Down Payment Assistance Program, we're helping Detroit residents

overcome the biggest barrier to buying a home and giving more families the chance to put down roots and build generational wealth right here in their neighborhoods," said Dina Harris, Founder and CEO of National Faith Homebuyers.

The Ownership Initiative, a Black-owned impact advisory firm headquartered in Detroit, helped design the program. Founded by CEO Krysta Pate, The Ownership Initiative has helped create more than 30 initiatives across six states that have collectively deployed over $100 million into personal wealth building, affordable housing, and small-business empowerment opportunities.

"Expanding homeownership requires real collaboration across community," said Krysta Pate, Founder of The Ownership Initiative. "We're grateful the City of Detroit trusted our advisory firm to help steward the partnership with lenders, ensuring the program works in today's lending environment while expanding opportunities for Detroit families."

Eligibility & How to Apply

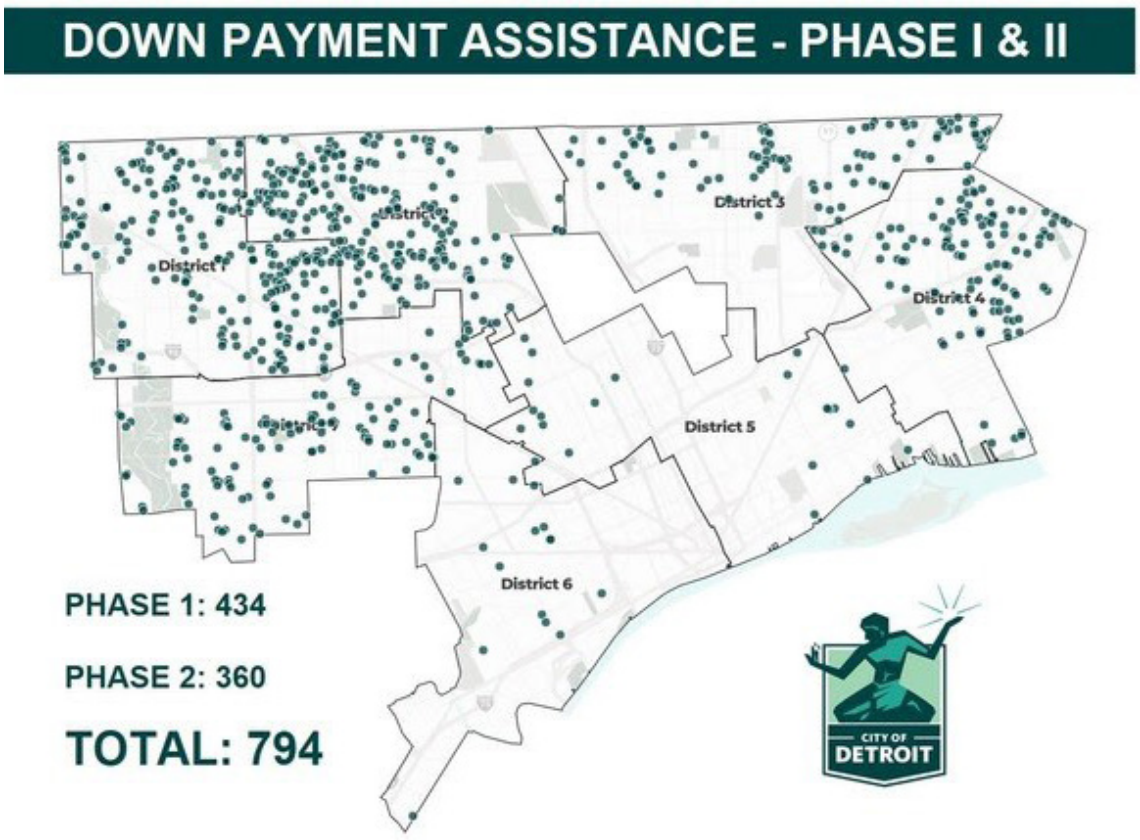
Here's what interested homebuyers can do to apply and receive funding:

To apply for this program, you must:

1. Find your lender and get pre-qualified for a mortgage.
2. Find your home and have a signed purchase agreement.
3. Take a homebuyer education class.
4. Apply to the DPA Program.

To learn more about program details and eligibility requirements, and to apply, go to www.detroitmi.gov/DPA or call the Detroit Housing Resource HelpLine at 866-313-2520 (option 3 after the language prompt) to be connected to program partners. The city will be utilizing Neighborly Software for applications. Staff will be on hand to help with applications.

HH Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
80% AMI Chart	$56, 600	$64, 650	$72, 750	$80, 800	$87, 300	$93, 750	$100, 200	$106, 700



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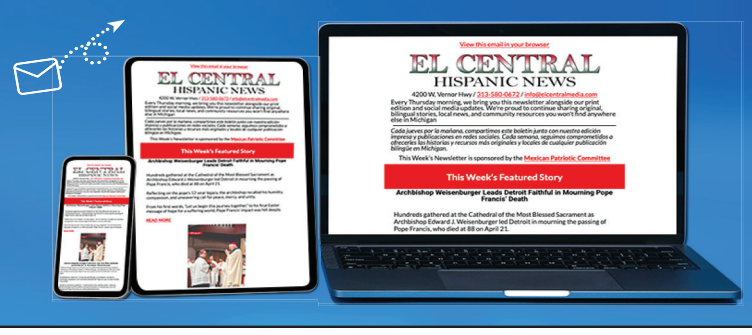
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS



Detroit Bets on Youth Ages 0-26

by Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

This past Monday evening, March 30, the City of Detroit's Department of Neighborhoods (DON) held a special "DON Cast" via zoom to update residents on the newly created youth-focused division - Youth and Education. Nearly 150 participants were online as special presenters from the division discussed their plans for the first one hundred days and beyond of Mayor Mary Sheffield's term.

"Detroit youth are our greatest asset. Period," said JerJuan Howard, Director of Youth Affairs, who stressed that direct youth engagement and feedback were central to the division's strategy.

"Youth are involved in the decision-making and they're involved in all of our processes…youth are not just our future; they are our present," said Angelica Williams from the Office of Youth Affairs.

The Youth and Education division will be geared toward ages 0-26 and will focus on early education, K-12 partnerships between Detroit Public Schools, charter schools, and non-profits, youth workforce, civic engagement, and out-of-school programs.

The Youth and Education division will be led by Dr. Chanel Hampton, who holds a doctorate in organization leadership from Creighton University.

"Our North Star for this team is to just ensure that every young person in our city has access to opportunity inside and outside of school, beyond high school, and well into young adulthood," said Hampton.

The city's first one hundred day priorities are focused on tackling absenteeism, transportation barriers, and access to out-of-school programming.

Key upcoming initiatives include "State of the Youth" high school tours, which will begin in early April and is expected to reach 7,000 students throughout 11 high schools in the first six weeks. Initiatives also include the formation of a Mayoral Youth cabinet for civic engagement, a Mayoral Fellowship for college students, and a summer program called "Occupy the Summer."

"We want to make sure that we are providing a platform where families, and young people in the city, now where all opportunities exist that are vetted," Hampton said.

The meeting was held the day before the State of the City address by newly elected Mayor Sheffield. More information about the Youth and Education initiatives will be released by the city in the coming months as they take shape.

"We can't solve anything alone. It takes everybody at the table," Howard said.

Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

2026 Youth & Police Chiefs Forum

The 2nd Annual Forum Youth & Police Chiefs Forum will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 11am to 1pm at the Wayne County Community College District Northwest Campus, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit.

The forum allows teens and young adults to engage candidly with top Police Chiefs about police encounters, crime, and other public safety concerns. This is a free community event with refreshments. It is open to the public; no need to pre-register. Any youth organization who wants seats together should request in advance by emailing bopc@detroitmi.gov.

Who's invited?

Participating in this year's forum are the Detroit Board of Police Commissioner's (BOPC) Youth Advisory Panel (YAP), Chief Todd Bettison of Detroit, Chief Elvin Barren of Southfield, Chief Tamika Jenkins of Inkster and Col. James Grady of Michigan State Police

YAP members are residents aged 15-24 years old who engage with the Board on community-led oversight of the Police Department.

Why hold this forum?

Youth have pressing concerns about police stops and interactions with police officers, about rising unease/mistrust with all law enforcement in current ICE era, and about what spaces are safe, fun and available for youth, especially with summer and curfews.

DPD Chief Bettison, speaking at mic, and Col. James Grady of the Michigan State Police are returning for a second year of this successful youth event to be held on Saturday, April 18. Pictured at the podium are youth moderators from the 2025 event.

Be a part of
GDYT!
CITY OF DETROIT
Grow Detroit's Young Talent
Here's how YOU can partner with GDYT:
Become an Employer Partner by providing a job at your designated worksite and sponsoring a 6-week paid work experience.
Become a Funding Partner by making a financial contribution to the GDYT program to support summer work experiences for Detroit youth.
Be recognized as an Affiliate Partner by directly hiring youth through an existing summer program that you operate.
Explore options to provide year-round and/or permanent employment opportunities to Detroit youth.
Interested? Visit
Visit gdyt.org/employers-supporters
Powered by Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, a Michigan Works! Agency. Equal opportunity employer/program. Supported by the State of Michigan, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. Proud partner of the American Job Center network. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities or language needs. 1-800-285-WORK. TTY: 711.
MICHIGAN WORKS!

Cultivating community for future generations:

Detroiters Vote on Name for New School in Southwest Detroit

By Juanita Zuniga • Renderings courtesy of Pure Architects

After a series of community meetings, on Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, residents from Southwest Detroit gathered virtually to discuss the final stretch of planning for a new school being built in the Springwells neighborhood, on the former site of the Phoenix Academy.

Phoenix Academy started out as Woodrow Wilson School operated by the Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD). When Wilson closed in 2007 the building reopened as Phoenix Academy eventually transitioning to a charter before closing in 2016 due to low enrollment and poor academic performance.

In the years that followed, the building sat vacant and endured theft, fires, and squatting which ultimately led community members to organize for something more—for something better for the neighborhood.

In 2027, DPSCD will unveil a new school at the same location. The $48 million project is expected to serve 500 students. The new school is projected to be a Pre-K through 8th grade elementary and middle school.

This $30 Million, 75,000 square foot design uses a precast concrete envelope with plans to commission local Detroit artists to render a mural on the exterior of the building.

One of the unresolved questions community members and DPSCD are honing in on is what this new school in Southwest Detroit should be called. After receiving a multitude of suggestions from the community and activists, the district opened up the "naming" process to the community.

Over the past months, focus groups were created charging young people in Southwest to come up with some names for the new school.

At the March 24th virtual community meeting, the district released a survey for local Detroits to vote and provide input for the names that have been compiled. It has come down to three—*Escuela Esperanza, Southwestern Elementary-Middle School, Frida Kahlo International Academy.*

In the survey you can also submit your own name and give an explanation on why yours should be considered.

Angeles Cuevas, Detroit native and community member of the Springwells neighborhood is hopeful about the development and has already voted on the name she sees best fit for the school.

"Education has always been a pillar for families around Southwest", said Cuevas. "Escuela Esperanza is a name rooted in perseverance and hope, something that Southwest natives identify with at our core because building this neighborhood has truly been an uphill battle and hope is what keeps us."

Detroiters can still vote on the name until Tuesday, April 6th. Voting for the name of the new school can be found at: https://bit.ly/SWNamingSurvey

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time. Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising. This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Portions of this story were produced with the help of ai and reviewed by journalists.

The design for the new school is centered on creating a "multicultural education space" that reflects the diverse heritage of Southwest Detroit.

Multicultural Design Elements

- **Exterior Murals:** The building's precast concrete envelope is designed to serve as a canvas for large-scale murals created by local Detroit artists, specifically intended to celebrate Spanish, Middle Eastern, and African cultures.
- **Cultural "Wayfinding":** Inside the school, the design uses specific color palettes and patterns to help students navigate the building while subtly referencing the community's cultural themes.
- **The "Heart" of the School:** The Instructional Media Center (IMC) is designed as an open, inviting hub located right off the main entry. It is intended to host both student learning and public community events.
- **Vibrant Music Spaces:** The music rooms include colorful acoustic panels designed to reflect a sense of "joy and vibrance," aligning with the community's celebratory traditions.
- **Integration with the Joe Louis Greenway** A standout feature of the new site is its physical connection to the Joe Louis Greenway, a 27.5-mile loop of trails connecting Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, and Dearborn.
- **The "Parklet":** The school site includes a dedicated public parklet that acts as a direct gateway to the greenway, encouraging students and neighbors to use the trail for walking and biking.
- **Outdoor Learning:** The site plan incorporates open lawn spaces and outdoor play areas (like the youth soccer field and basketball courts) that sit adjacent to the trail, effectively making the school a community "anchor" along the greenway route.
- **Safety:** While the school connects to the public trail, it maintains a protected interior courtyard specifically for Pre-K and Kindergarten students to ensure a secure play environment.

History

Here are a few key details regarding the history of schools on this site:

- **Original Name:** The school opened in Southwest Detroit in 1918 as Woodrow Wilson School, originally serving as an elementary school.
- **Transitions:** It later became an intermediate-only school in 1931.
- **Renaming:** At the end of the 2006-2007 school year, the Woodrow Wilson building closed and was replaced by a K-8 program called the Phoenix Academy.
- **Closure and Future:** The school eventually transitioned to a charter school before closing permanently in 2016. A new school is planned for the same site, scheduled to open in 2027.

The multicultural education space will intertwine the Spanish, Middle Eastern, and African cultures that are present within the neighborhood. The site design has a parklet that connects to the City of Detroit's Joe Louis Greenway, which is 27.5 mile biking and walking trail that extends from the Detroit Riverfront to Highland Park, Dearborn, and Hamtramck.

NO THRONES. NO CROWNS.

NOKINGS.ORG

Third "No Kings" Demonstrations Gathered Thousands Across Michigan

Continued from page 1

Photos by Erick Diaz Veliz | Additional photos by Bill Deuparon

Grand Circus Park, where the rally began at 3 pm, carrying a festive attitude with music, dances, costumes, and creative signs.

It was the first "No King" protest for Kyla Selph, 19, a Detroit resident, who said she wanted to make a difference alongside the people of her community; however, she also highlighted how, despite social movements, many things remain unchanged.

"I'm being honest, I really

don't think anything has changed," she said. "We still have the same people with the same mindsets and still racism, still police brutality, still ICE brutality. I think the more we come out here and the more we keep taking action, the more that we can improve."

Driven by the "No Kings" movement and followed by advocacy groups, similar scenes unfolded on Saturday, March 28 in cities and towns across the country as an act of social and political resistance. It is the fourth major mass demonstration since April 2025, which has now brought together around 8 million people in more than 3,000 locations according to organizers' estimates. While the overwhelming number of protests were peaceful, clashes between protesters and police, arrests, and the deployment of tear gas were seen in Los Angeles, Memphis, and Dallas.

Republicans once again mocked and criticized the national protest movement. In a statement shared to media outlets, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson called them the product of "leftist funding networks" with little real public support, AP reported.

The "only people who care about these Trump Derangement Therapy Sessions are the reporters who are paid to cover them," Jackson said.

From Dubai, at a business summit hosted by Saudi royals, Donald Trump Jr. called the demonstrators "crazy liberals", reported PBS News. "If my father was a king, he probably wouldn't have allowed those protests to happen," he said.

In Michigan, thousands of people, including residents, activists, politicians, and faith leaders, peacefully joined over 100 other marches in small towns and cities such as Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and three demonstrations in Detroit.

With the midterm elections just a few months away, protests have been supported by Democratic politicians, some seeking reelection, others urging the public to recognize the importance of their votes.

"We stand tall in Michigan, the state that is the number one MAGA priority to interfere with the election," said Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist to thousands gathered for the rally at Grand Circus Park. "When we vote out all their allies, we vote up for our power."

"No Kings Detroit" organizers had stated that this demonstration is a defense of the Constitution to "protect the Michiganders brutalized by ICE and stop the ongoing escalating war in Iran."

Trump's anti-immigrant crusade has remained the central focus of these demonstrations since they began. Now, added to the stack of demands is the current conflict with Iran, a theme Trump himself used as a banner during his presidential campaign: no more wars. Military funding for Israel; Trump's involvement in the Epstein case; deteriorating foreign relations with other nations, and the upcoming midterm elections were also among protesters' demands.

In West Michigan, Grand Rapids was the epicenter of the largest gathering. The event took place in downtown, where thousands of people attended to fill the streets during the rally and march.

"People are denied housing, health care, clean water, food, or basic social safety nets. We reject that reality," said a member of Movimiento Cosecha during the rally at Rosas Park. "We must not accept a system where black and brown people are feared, targeted, and brutalized. We will not normalize a state violence that kidnaps, cages, and kills our communities with masked agents operating without accountability."

The group advocating for the rights of undocumented immigrants also cited cases of immigrants arrested by immigration agents and taken to the North Lake Detention Center in Baldwin, MI where they were not provided with adequate treatment and medicine when needed. Furthermore, they accused the Grand Rapids Police and the Kent County Sheriff of cooperating with ICE.

"We demand sanctuary policies to end this cooperation," they said. "These are not radical demands. These are necessary protections for immigrants."

In Romulus, several dozen people gathered outside 7525 Cogswell St., where a warehouse, now owned by the federal government, is slated to become a 500-bed ICE detention center. On one side of the road, political leaders and activists arrived to deliver speeches expressing their opposition to the future facility and calling for more definitive action.

Red Wings
THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT OUR FOUNDERS WARNED US ABOUT
YOU CAN'T BOMB YOUR WAY OUT OF THE EPSTEIN FILES
WE'RE NOT RADICAL, WE JUST REMEMBER HISTORY.

The demonstration was preceded by a lawsuit filed by the State of Michigan and the City of Romulus on March 24, in which they seek to prevent the opening of the planned facility. The lawsuit, spearheaded by Attorney General Dana Nessel, stated: "The Romulus Warehouse is simply not, and never will be, an appropriate place for a large-scale detention center."

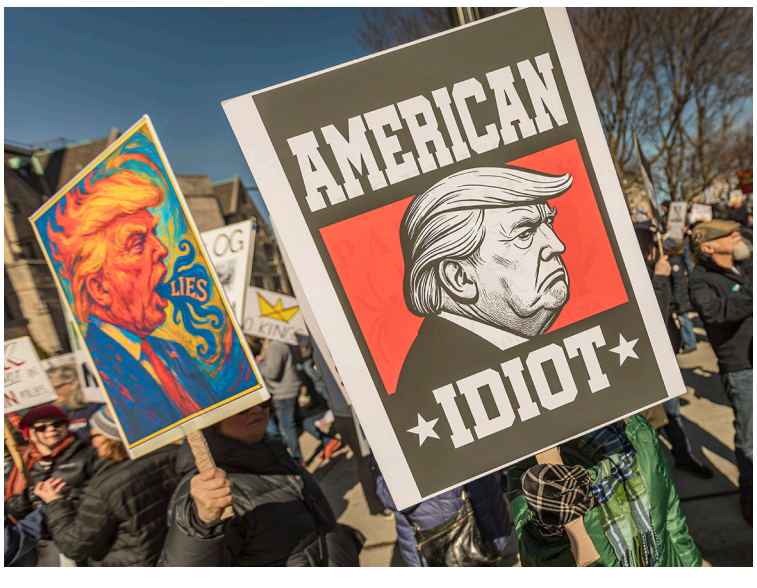
Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib spoke about cases of ICE abuse against Michigan families and accused the government of leading the country into an illegal war. The Democrat lawmaker, who advocates for the complete abolition of ICE, had just come from Clark Park in Southwest Detroit where she gave a similar speech to some 300 protesters. There, she criticized her Democratic colleagues for seeking only ICE reform and not abolition, and offered a mea culpa for the abuse of federal agents against the community.

"It is not just Republicans. It is Democrats who are not moving with the urgency that is needed," she said.

"It is unbelievable that many of my colleagues still think they can fix our broken, inhumane immigration system with more enforcement. We all have experienced it, not only the Southwest, but really around the country," Tlaib added.

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.



SIN TRONOS. SIN CORONAS.

NOKINGS.ORG

La marcha nacional “No Kings” reunió a miles de personas en todo Michigan

Continuado de la página 1

Fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz | Fotos adicionales de Bill Deuparon

Circus Park, donde la manifestación comenzó a las 3 p.m., con un comportamiento festivo que incluyó música en vivo, cantos, bailes y disfraces.

Fue la primera protesta “No Kings” para Kyla Selph, de 19 años, residente de Detroit, quien dijo que quería marcar una diferencia junto a la gente de su comunidad; sin embargo, también destacó que, a pesar de los movimientos sociales, muchas cosas no han cambiado.

“Siendo honesta, realmente no creo que algo haya cambiado”, dijo. “Seguimos teniendo a las mismas personas con las mismas mentalidades: sigue habiendo racismo, brutalidad policial y brutalidad de ICE. Creo que mientras más salgamos y sigamos tomando acción, más podremos mejorar”.

Impulsadas por el movimiento “No Kings” y seguidas por grupos activistas, escenas similares se desarrollaron el sábado en ciudades y pueblos de todo el país como un acto de resistencia sociopolítica. Es la tercera gran manifestación masiva desde julio del año pasado, que ahora ha reunido a alrededor de 8 millones de personas en más de 3.000 lugares, según estimaciones de los organizadores. En Los Ángeles, Memphis y Dallas se registraron enfrentamientos entre manifestantes y la policía, arrestos y el uso de gas lacrimógeno.

El gobierno republicano volvió a burlarse y criticar las concentraciones. En una declaración compartida con medios, la vocera de la Casa Blanca, Abigail Jackson, las calificó como producto de “redes financiadas por la izquierda” con poco apoyo público, según AP.

“Las únicas personas a las que les importan estas sesiones de ‘terapia por trastorno anti-Trump’ son los reporteros a quienes les pagan por cubrirlas”, dijo Jackson.

Desde Dubái, durante una cumbre empresarial organizada por la realeza saudí, Donald Trump Jr. calificó a los manifestantes de “liberales locos”, informó PBS News. “Si mi padre fuera un rey, probablemente no habría permitido que esas protestas ocurrieran”, dijo.

En Michigan, miles de personas, incluidos residentes, activistas, políticos y líderes religiosos, se unieron pacíficamente a más de 100 marchas en pueblos y ciudades como Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor y tres manifestaciones en Detroit.

Con las elecciones de medio término a solo unos meses, las protestas han contado con la presencia de políticos demócratas, algunos en busca de la reelección y otros instando al público a reconocer la importancia de su voto.

“Nos mantenemos firmes en Michigan, el estado que es la prioridad número uno de MAGA para interferir en la elección”, dijo el vicegobernador de Michigan, Garlin Gilchrist, ante cientos de personas durante el rally en Grand Circus Park. “Cuando sacamos a todos sus aliados, elevamos nuestro poder”.

Los organizadores de “No Kings Detroit” habían señalado que esta manifestación es una defensa de la Constitución para “proteger a los habitantes de Michigan brutalizados por ICE y detener la guerra en escalada en Irán”.

La cruzada antiinmigrante de Trump ha sido el enfoque central de estas manifestaciones desde el inicio. Ahora, a la pila de demandas se suman el conflicto actual con Irán, un tema que el republicano utilizó como bandera durante su campaña presidencial: no más guerras, la financiación militar para Israel, la implicación de Trump en el caso Epstein, una política exterior deficiente hacia otros países y las próximas elecciones de medio término.

En el oeste de Michigan, Grand Rapids fue el epicentro de la mayor concentración en el área. El evento tuvo lugar en el centro de la ciudad, donde miles de personas llenaron las calles durante el mitin y la marcha.

“Tenemos una constitución, no un rey.” “No hay reyes en América.”

“A la gente se le niega vivienda, atención médica, agua potable, alimentos o redes básicas de seguridad social. Rechazamos esa realidad”, dijo un miembro de Movimiento Cosecha durante el rally en Rosas Park. “No debemos aceptar un sistema en el que las personas negras y latinas sean abusadas, perseguidas y brutalizadas. No normalizaremos una violencia estatal que secuestra, encarcela y mata a nuestras comunidades con agentes enmascarados que operan sin rendición de cuentas”.

El grupo, que aboga por los derechos de los inmigrantes indocumentados, también citó casos de inmigrantes arrestados por agentes migratorios y trasladados a North Lake, donde no se les brindó tratamiento ni medicamentos adecuados cuando los necesitaban. Además, acusaron a la policía de Grand Rapids y al sheriff del condado de Kent de cooperar con ICE.

“Exigimos políticas de santuario para terminar con esta cooperación”, dijeron. “Estas no son demandas radicales, son protecciones necesarias para los inmigrantes”.

En Romulus, varias decenas de personas se reunieron frente al 7525 Cogswell St., donde un almacén, ahora propiedad del gobierno federal, está destinado a convertirse en un centro de detención de ICE con capacidad para 500 camas. A un lado de la carretera, líderes políticos y activistas dieron discursos expresando su oposición a la futura instalación y pidiendo acciones más contundentes.

A la manifestación le precede una demanda presentada por el estado de Michigan y la ciudad de Romulus el 24 de marzo, con la que buscan impedir la apertura del centro planificado. La demanda, encabezada por la fiscal general Dana Nessel, afirma: “El almacén de Romulus simplemente no es ni será nunca un lugar apropiado para un centro de detención a gran escala”.

La congresista Rashida Tlaib habló sobre casos de abuso de ICE contra familias en Michigan y acusó al gobierno de llevar al país a una guerra ilegal. La legisladora demócrata, que aboga por la abolición total de ICE, venía desde Clark Park, donde ofreció un discurso similar ante unos 300 manifestantes. Allí criticó a sus colegas demócratas por buscar solo reformas a ICE y no su eliminación, y ofreció una autocrítica por los abusos de agentes federales contra la comunidad.

“No son solo los republicanos. Son los demócratas quienes no están actuando con la urgencia necesaria”, dijo.

“Es increíble que muchos de mis colegas todavía crean que pueden arreglar nuestro sistema migratorio roto e inhumano mediante la aplicación de leyes de guerra. Todos lo hemos experimentado, no solo en el suroeste, sino realmente en todo el país”, afirmó Tlaib.

“No reyes.” “No maltrates a los extranjeros (EX. 22:31)”

NO WAR
SAVE THE WORLD DUMP TRUMP
REMEMBER ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FASCISM
THE WORST OF THE WORST
NOW YOU'VE PISSED OFF GRANDMA

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

DCFC defeats Charleston Battery 1-0 at Keyworth Stadium

Photos by Adam J. Dewey/ EL CENTRAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit City FC defeats Charleston Battery, 1-0, at Keyworth Stadium, this past Saturday.

For more information on the game please see David Levine's article on pg 11.

Photos below are highlights from Detroit City vs. Charleston Battery

Jeciel Cedeño (#10) fights off a tackle from Langston Blackstock (#7)

Detroit City FC goalie Carlos Herrera (#1) catches a shot on goal

Pro Boxing at the Sound Board

Photos provided by Bob Ryder (fightnews.com)

Last Saturday night, a large crowd saw eleven pro boxing matches, at the Sound Board arena (located in the Motor City Casino). Some highlights of the show, are featured below.

Daishaun "K-9" Bundrage (3-0, 3 KOs) defeated Darius Carr (0-1) by KO in the 1st round (2:04)

Vernon Webber (11-1, 1 KO) defeated Devonte Williams (13-5) by TKO. Webber also won the ABF Heavyweight Championship belt

Ferris Dixon (8-1, 4 KOs) defeated Reginald Henson (3-2-1) by unanimous decision

Sam Izzo (10-1, 3 KOs) defeated Paul Peers (0-1) by unanimous decision

DCFC Grinds Out A Tough Win But At A Cost

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Darren Smith continued his early hot streak with his fourth goal of the season as DCFC beat one of the elite teams in the USL Championship 1-0 on a bright, chilly afternoon in Hamtramck. Le Rouge needed a response after losing to Indy XI the previous week and they came out determined to make an impression on the Charleston Battery.

Early on Haruki Yamazaki had a shot fly past the top corner and Jeciel Cedeno forced a good save from Battery goalkeeper Luis Zamudio. Those warnings put the visiting Battery on the back foot. Even though they maintained an edge in possession, the visitors generated little in front of Carlos Herrera's goal. Given the back and forth nature of the match in midfield and the limited opportunities, one goal looked like enough to decide which team would earn three points.

Yamazaki had been a thorn in the Battery's attack for much of the game, locking down the right side of the DCFC back line. However, his deft pull-back dribble took two defenders out of the move that led to the winning goal. The play started with Herrera finding Yamazaki near the right touchline. He advanced into the Battery half before executing his move and finding Preston Tabort Etaka in the number ten position. The Cameroonian spread the ball to Ates Diouf on the left wing. Diouf beat his man on the dribble and centered the ball to where Smith was running. Smith redirected the ball past Zamudio to give DCFC the 1-0 lead in the 75th minute that they would not relinquish.

The smiles at the end of the game were tinged with concern, though. Maxi Rodriguez pulled up in the 41st minute with a non-contact injury. The early sense is that it is a hamstring strain with the severity unknown. Losing Rodriguez for any length of time would be a blow as he looked to be recapturing some of his form from two years ago. To add more concern, Tabort Etaka, who replaced Rodriguez in the first half, had to leave with what looked like a painful groin injury five minutes after DCFC took the lead.

DCFC has an Open Cup game in midweek against the Flint City Bucks in Grand Blanc followed by a trip to Rhode Island on Saturday. Defender Michael Bryant may be up to two months away from playing due to injury. The next few games will give DCFC an early test of its depth. So far, the new signings like Tommy Silva, Callum Montgomery, Alex Dalou, and Chisom Egbuchulam have been a boon to the team. As injuries pop up, they will get more chances to show their skills.

BELGIUM SHREDS USA IN SECOND HALF

Most USA fans would have felt optimistic at halftime of their friendly against Belgium last Saturday. Each team scored late in the half. Weston McKennie neatly finished an Antonee Robinson corner kick to give the hosts the lead in front of more than 66,000 at the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta. Zeno DeBast equalized for Belgium on a shot from well outside the penalty area. Both teams had their chances prior to scoring, but the overall run of play looked even.

US manager Mauricio Pochettino made one change at halftime, a preplanned move to bring on Christian Roldan for Jonny Cardoso. That didn't seem to change much materially when the half started, but Belgium exploded for three goals in fifteen minutes to bury the US as part of a 5-2 thrashing.

Few US players came out of this match looking good. Belgium attacked the right side of the US defense where Tim Weah started at right back. Manchester City's Jeremie Doku never let up. He didn't score, but his hard-charging style unsettled the US defense and drew a number of players out of position. Amadou Onana and Dodi Lukebakio scored three goals between them with Charles DeKetelaere adding a penalty to complete the rout.

Patrick Agyemang scored the Americans' consolation goal after Ricardo Pepi intercepted a poor pass in the Belgian penalty area. By then, the Belgians had taken their foot off the gas pedal. One key player in the squad may be past 30, but Napoli star Kevin DeBruyne turned back the clock with a dominant midfield performance. His range and passing accuracy haven't diminished. He may not be as effective in the summer heat, but he had no trouble picking passes in the environmentally controlled space of Mercedes-Benz.

This defeat highlighted the lack of depth in the US squad. It's hard to believe Pochettino is going to rely on 38 year old Tim Ream for significant minutes at the World Cup. His play has dropped off this year and Belgium exposed him time and again. The absence of Chris Richards and Miles Robinson through injury left Pochettino with few options in the center of the back line. Mark McKenzie came in and was average at best. Pochettino may have to rethink his formation before the US plays Portugal and change to the three center-back alignment that did so well during the fall friendly games. He could play Alex Freeman or Joe Scally as the right center back with the other as the right wing back.

Midfield missed Tyler Adams. Cardoso and Tanner Tessman are good players, but Adams is elite at breaking up plays and rallying the team. Adams is a leader on the field and in the locker room. The Americans also need Christian Pulisic to find the form he had in the fall. He has just one goal contribution for club and country in 2026. Against Belgium he had at least two good chances to at worst challenge the goalkeeper, but missed the target completely. If he isn't on top of his game, the whole attack suffers. Folarin Balogan had one shot during his 71 minutes due to a lack of service.

Every American fan will be relieved that Antonee Robinson looks to be regaining his form and fitness. It's been a tough two years for the left back known as "Jedi." He served the corner for the first US goal, but made it clear that Belgium wouldn't get far attacking his side. It's revealing that the Belgians didn't change the focus of their attack until after Robinson went off. Then, they torched Max Arfsten with Lukebakio. The back four alignment doesn't suit Arfsten the way it does Robinson. Arfsten is more of a wing back who plays better when there are three center backs.

Pochettino will have to analyze this data and any other information he collected quickly to adjust for Portugal. Even though Cristian Ronaldo did not travel due to injury, this is a team loaded with top class players, a step up from Belgium. This may be a game to try out a more pragmatic approach and soak up some pressure while looking to counter. It might not be great to watch, but after shipping five goals, some damage control is in order.

Giving up five goals doesn't make anybody look good, but it makes the goalkeeper look worse. The biggest shock to the lineup that started against Belgium had to be seeing Matt Turner in goal. Turner is back with the New England Revolution trying to find his game. He made some saves on Saturday, but didn't give the impression he was ready to reclaim the job he had during the 2022 World Cup. He probably should have done better on DeBast's long range shot, but had little chance on the other four goals. Still, no goalkeeper will be happy conceding five times no matter the opponent or circumstances. Matt Freese, who won't make anybody forget Brad Friedel, Kasey Keller, or Tim Howard any time soon, should be back in goal against Portugal. Like center back and center midfield, goalkeeper is a major concern for the USA going into the World Cup.

Tigers Opening Weekend, April 3rd - 5th

The Detroit Tigers have started the 2026 MLB season on the road. They come to Comerica Park, this Friday, April 3rd for their home opener hosting the Saint Louis Cardinals. Tarik Skubal will take the mound on Friday for the home opener, and returning to the Tigers, Justin Verlander, will take the mound on Sunday night. Rookie Kevin McGonigle (infielder) has been a star for the Tigers. Photo of Tarik Skubal by Adam J, Dewey/ EL CENTRAL, photos of Kevin McGonigle and Justin Verlander provided by Detroit Tigers

Tarik Skubal will take the mound for the home opener, this Friday at Comerica Park. Photo of Tarik Skubal from the 2025 season at Comerica Park

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EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

Trump's Magical Thinking

He says he's winning in Iran. He's losing bigly.

By Robert Reich

Mr. Trump, may I have a word?

Bad enough for you to insist — in the face of all evidence to the contrary — that you won the 2020 election.

But it's another thing for you to pretend — in the face of mounting deaths and injuries, ballooning expenses, and rising prices — that you won, or are winning, the war with Iran you began on February 28.

"Let me say, we've won," you told a rally in Kentucky on March 11.

"I think we've won," you said on the White House South Lawn on March 20.

"We've won this war. The war has been won," you said in the Oval Office on March 24.

"We are winning so big," you told a fundraising dinner on March 25.

"We've had regime change," you told reporters last weekend. "The one regime was decimated, destroyed, they're all dead. The next regime is mostly dead." Iran has now moved onto its "third regime," and American negotiators are now speaking to "a whole different group of people" who have "been very reasonable," you said.

You're making all this up. In fact, you're losing your war. And so is America and much of the rest of the world.

After a month, your war has already cost 13 American lives, cost American taxpayers at least $30 billion, cost American consumers at least a dollar more per gallon of gas than they paid a month ago, pushed up food prices and mortgage rates, and pushed down the value of 401(k) retirement plans. It's mangled supply chains for industries that rely on items such as fertilizer to grow food or helium to make computer chips. It's also wreaked havoc across the Middle East with at least 1,574 civilians killed in Iran, including 236 children, and at least 50 killed in Iran's attacks on other Gulf nations.

You assumed Iran would give up its nuclear program. Wrong. After more than a month of bombing by the United States and Israel, you've most likely stiffened the regime's resolve to produce a nuclear weapon.

In this respect, too, America is worse off — more endangered than we were in 2018 before you withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal negotiated by Barack Obama. In that deal, Iran agreed to restrict its nuclear program — reducing uranium stockpiles by 98 percent and capping enrichment at 3.67 percent and allowing inspections — in exchange for relief from UN, EU, and U.S. nuclear-related sanctions.

Iran now holds a stockpile of approximately 970 pounds of uranium enriched up to 60 percent purity, according to the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. That's close to weapons-grade. No one knows where it's stored.

You thought winning this war would be as easy as abducting Nicolás Maduro from Venezuela and setting up a puppet regime there. Wrong again. The old ayatollah is gone, but the new one and his regime are even more radical and hard line.

You assumed America's military might would weaken Iran's military capacity. Wrong. They've embraced asymmetric warfare — using cheap drones and missiles and blocking the Strait of Hormuz — rather than take on America's and Israel's superior forces directly.

You thought the regime would soon cave. Wrong. It's been over a month and they're the ones playing the waiting game. They think they can withstand the mounting political and economic pressures better and longer than you and America can. They may be correct.

Reportedly, you've told aides you're now willing to end the war even if Iran continues to block the Strait of Hormuz. Maybe this is your best option at this point. But it will allow Iran to decide in the future how much oil gets through and for whom and could cause the economic damage to the U.S. to grow exponentially worse.

Mr. Trump, do you really believe you won this war? Do you really believe America is better off than it was when you began the war?

Maybe the people around you are telling you that you've won the war and we're better off because you punish the bearers of bad news and reward those who tell you what you want to hear. Presumably you're hearing the same fictionalized good news from Republicans in Congress, from sycophantic leaders abroad, from other assorted lackeys and suck-ups.

Or maybe you think that if you can convince enough people that you won and we're better off, you will have won and America will be better off. Because for you it's always about public perceptions of reality rather than reality itself. Everything depends on hype, spin, exaggeration, and outright lies. For you there's no truth, only belief.

Or maybe you think that if you keep saying you won or are winning, and America has come out on top, your magical thinking will in fact come true.

But this isn't a game, and you're not a magician. This is real blood and guts. Real pain. Real deaths and injuries. Real price increases at the gas pump. Real hardships for real people — in America, in the Middle East, and elsewhere.

You can't pretend, sir. This isn't reality television. This is for real. And the reality is Americans are worse off now and less secure than we were when you started this.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

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Opinión de un Invitado:

Trump no tiene ni idea de lo que hace

No tiene un objetivo final para su guerra, lo cual podría ser su perdición

Por Robert Reich

Sr. Trump, ¿puedo decirle unas palabras?

Ya es bastante grave que usted insista —frente a toda evidencia en contrario— en que ganó las elecciones de 2020.

Pero es otra cosa muy distinta que usted pretenda —frente al creciente número de muertes y heridos, los gastos desorbitados y el alza de los precios— que ganó, o que está ganando, la guerra con Irán que usted inició el 28 de febrero.

«Permítanme decirles: hemos ganado», dijo usted en un mitin en Kentucky el 11 de marzo.

«Creo que hemos ganado», afirmó en el Jardín Sur de la Casa Blanca el 20 de marzo.

«Hemos ganado esta guerra. La guerra ha sido ganada», declaró en el Despacho Oval el 24 de marzo.

«Estamos ganando por una gran diferencia», comentó en una cena de recaudación de fondos el 25 de marzo.

«Hemos tenido un cambio de régimen», dijo a los periodistas el fin de semana pasado. «Un régimen fue diezmado, destruido; todos sus miembros están muertos. El siguiente régimen está, en su mayor parte, muerto». Irán ha pasado ahora a su «tercer régimen», y los negociadores estadounidenses están hablando ahora con «un grupo de personas totalmente diferente» que se ha mostrado «muy razonable», afirmó usted.

Todo esto se lo está inventando. De hecho, usted está perdiendo su guerra. Y con usted, la está perdiendo Estados Unidos y gran parte del resto del mundo.

Tras un mes, su guerra ya se ha cobrado 13 vidas estadounidenses; ha costado a los contribuyentes de EE. UU. al menos 30.000 millones de dólares; ha supuesto para los consumidores estadounidenses un aumento de al menos un dólar por galón de gasolina respecto a lo que pagaban hace un mes; ha disparado los precios de los alimentos y las tasas hipotecarias; y ha devaluado el valor de los planes de jubilación 401(k). Ha destrozado las cadenas de suministro de industrias que dependen de productos como los fertilizantes para el cultivo de alimentos o el helio para la fabricación de chips informáticos. También ha sembrado el caos en todo Oriente Medio, con al menos 1.574 civiles muertos en Irán —incluidos 236 niños— y al menos 50 fallecidos en los ataques perpetrados por Irán contra otras naciones del Golfo.

Usted asumió que Irán renunciaría a su programa nuclear. Se equivocó. Tras más de un mes de bombardeos por parte de Estados Unidos e Israel, lo más probable es que usted haya reforzado la determinación del régimen de producir un arma nuclear.

También en este aspecto, Estados Unidos se encuentra en una situación peor —más en peligro— de lo que estábamos en 2018, antes de que usted retirara a Estados Unidos del acuerdo nuclear con Irán negociado por Barack Obama. En dicho acuerdo, Irán accedió a restringir su programa nuclear —reduciendo sus reservas de uranio en un 98 por ciento, limitando el enriquecimiento al 3,67 por ciento y permitiendo inspecciones— a cambio del levantamiento de las sanciones relacionadas con la energía nuclear impuestas por la ONU, la UE y Estados Unidos.

Irán posee ahora unas reservas de aproximadamente 970 libras de uranio enriquecido hasta un 60 por ciento de pureza, según el Centro para el Control de Armas y la No Proliferación. Esa cantidad se acerca al grado armamentístico. Nadie sabe dónde está almacenada.

Usted pensó que ganar esta guerra sería tan fácil como secuestrar a Nicolás Maduro de Venezuela e instaurar allí un régimen títere. Se equivocó de nuevo. El viejo ayatolá ya no está, pero el nuevo —y su régimen— son aún más radicales y de línea dura.

Usted asumió que el poderío militar de Estados Unidos debilitaría la capacidad militar de Irán. Se equivocó. Han adoptado la guerra asimétrica —utilizando drones y misiles de bajo costo y bloqueando el estrecho de Ormuz— en lugar de enfrentarse directamente a las fuerzas superiores de Estados Unidos e Israel.

Usted pensó que el régimen cedería pronto. Se equivocó. Ha pasado más de un mes y son ellos quienes están jugando al juego de la espera. Creen que pueden resistir las crecientes presiones políticas y económicas mejor y durante más tiempo de lo que pueden hacerlo usted y Estados Unidos. Puede que tengan razón.

Según se informa, usted ha comunicado a sus asesores que ahora está dispuesto a poner fin a la guerra, incluso si Irán continúa bloqueando el estrecho de Ormuz. Quizás esta sea su mejor opción en este momento. Pero ello permitirá a Irán decidir en el futuro cuánto petróleo circula y hacia quién se dirige, y podría provocar que el daño económico para Estados Unidos se agrave de manera exponencial.

Sr. Trump, ¿cree realmente que ha ganado esta guerra? ¿Cree de verdad que Estados Unidos se encuentra en una situación mejor que cuando usted comenzó la guerra? Quizás las personas que le rodean le dicen que ha ganado la guerra y que estamos mejor, porque usted castiga a los portadores de malas noticias y recompensa a quienes le dicen lo que quiere oír. Es de suponer que está escuchando esas mismas buenas noticias ficticias de boca de los republicanos en el Congreso, de líderes extranjeros aduladores y de otros variopintos lacayos y lamebotas.

O tal vez piense que, si logra convencer a suficientes personas de que ha ganado y de que estamos mejor, entonces habrá ganado de verdad y Estados Unidos estará mejor. Porque, para usted, todo gira siempre en torno a la percepción pública de la realidad, más que en torno a la realidad misma. Todo depende de la publicidad exagerada, de la manipulación informativa, de las exageraciones y de las mentiras descaradas. Para usted no existe la verdad; solo existe la creencia.

O quizás piense que, si insiste en repetir que ha ganado —o que va ganando— y que Estados Unidos ha salido victorioso, su pensamiento mágico acabará haciéndose realidad.

Pero esto no es un juego, y usted no es un mago. Esto es sangre y entrañas de verdad. Dolor real. Muertes y heridas reales. Aumentos reales en el precio de la gasolina. Dificultades reales para personas reales: en Estados Unidos, en Oriente Medio y en otros lugares.

No puede fingir, señor. Esto no es un programa de telerrealidad. Esto es de verdad. Y la realidad es que los estadounidenses estamos ahora peor y menos seguros de lo que estábamos cuando usted comenzó todo esto.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Holy Week

Holy Week

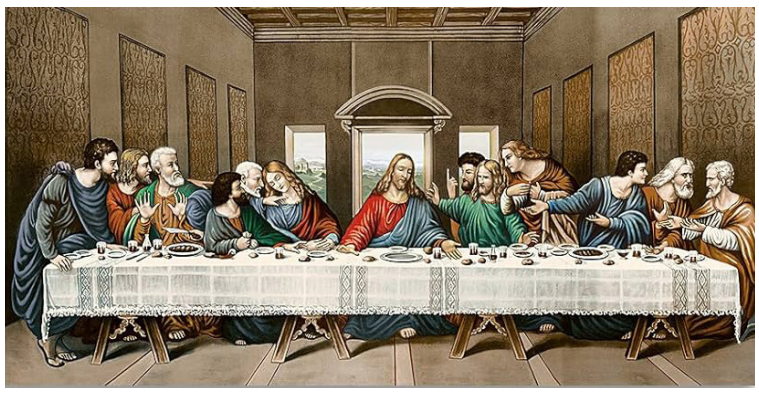
Holy Week is the most important commemoration and celebration in the Catholic Church, and given that Latin America is a predominantly Catholic region, it is one of its most significant holidays. Holy Week commemorates the final days of Jesus Christ's life, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, who would rise on the third day after his death to save humanity from sin.

These holy days began last Sunday, Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was received with olive branches in recognition of his forty days in the desert, facing the temptations of Lucifer. Currently, the observances begin on Ash Wednesday, leading into what we call Lent, the forty days of fasting and abstinence.

Later, Holy Week concludes with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to carry out the greatest sacrifice of his life, which would confirm him as Christ. Through his sacrifice, the absolution of sins would be achieved, and a new era would begin with the emergence of the Catholic Church through the New Fire.

However, within this process, Holy Thursday, which we commemorate today, is a day of great importance. It begins when Jesus demonstrates his immeasurable humility with the washing of feet, that is, he acknowledges himself as the Son of God, but not as a superior being to his brothers and sisters, other human beings.

For we must remember that during his forty-day retreat in the desert, Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan, who had offered to make him king of the world. Jesus rejected this proposal; he wanted to reach heaven with his Father God as a merciful being. In this way, by washing the feet of his apostles, he bears witness to his service to others, to his brothers and sisters.



Later, the Last Supper takes place, when Jesus offers bread and wine to his disciples: "This is the body and blood of God," as a symbol of his sacrifice and devotion.

That night, when they go to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas kisses Jesus to identify him, thus

betraying him to be arrested. Judas had sold him for 30 pieces of silver.

Once Jesus has been arrested, he is taken to visit seven kings or seven authorities so that one of them will be the one to judge him. Finally, Jesus is handed over to Pontius Pilate, who will decide his fate. However, Pontius Pilate doesn't want to deal with it either, but he can't avoid the situation.

The next morning, in front of the Jews, the trial takes place. Pontius Pilate tells them that he finds no reason for Jesus to have committed any crime, so there is no reason to punish him. Taking advantage of the fact that a prisoner was released during Passover, Pilate asked them if they wanted to release Jesus or Barabbas. The Jews chose Barabbas.

Once the Jews asked Pilate to punish Jesus, the Stations of the Cross began. This is when he was flogged, crowned with thorns, and given a purple robe as a symbol of his royal status—he was a king, with his robe and crown of thorns.

In Latin America, the Stations of the Cross are so important that reenactments are performed in cities and towns, where men carry their crosses to the place where the crucifixion will take place. It's important to know that the commemoration is carried out with realistic acts; they do receive some of the scourging, even if it's only simulated.

Jesus carries his cross to Calvary, and upon arriving at Golgotha, he is crucified according to the custom. However, in those days, people didn't die on the cross itself, but were tied to it, as was the case with the two thieves, one on each side of Jesus. Unlike the two thieves, Dismas and Gestas, Jesus was crucified with nails, and at the top, they placed the inscription that reads: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

When Jesus was on the cross, he asked for water because he was thirsty, and they gave him vinegar. When he spat out the vinegar,

he looked to heaven and exclaimed his words that affirmed that everything had been fulfilled. Not only that, he asked God: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

At three in the afternoon, a Roman centurion pierced his left side with a spear. The skies closed, and everything went dark. The rivers and seas ran red with blood. Jesus had died. They took him to his tomb, where they laid his body to rest. On the afternoon of Good Friday, the "Procession of Silence" takes place to accompany the Virgin Mary in her grief for the loss of her son. On the third day, Jesus rises again; therefore, on Saturday night, the New Fire ceremony is celebrated, which is the most important event in the Catholic calendar.

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EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Semana Santa

Semana Santa

La Semana Santa es la conmemoración seguida por la celebración más importante de la iglesia católica, y siendo iberoamérica una región mayormente católica, es, pues, una de las festividades más importantes. Recordemos, pues, que la Semana Santa se lleva a cabo la conmemoración de los últimos días de la vida de Jesucristo, que es cuando se cumplió la profecía de Isaías en la que hablaba sobre la venida del Mesías, el príncipe de paz, quien resucitaría al tercer día después de morir para salvar de los pecados a la humanidad.

Estos días santos que comenzaron el domingo pasado, Domingo de Ramos, cuando entra Jesús a Jerusalén y lo reciben con ramos de olivos como reconocimiento por haber sobrellevado los cuarenta días en el desierto afrontando las tentaciones de Lucifer. En la actualidad, se conmemora a partir del miércoles de ceniza para llevar a lo que llamamos la cuaresma, los cuarenta días de vigilia.

Posteriormente, cierra con la semana mayor, la entrada de Jesús a Jerusalén para concretar el sacrificio más grande de su vida, lo que lo confirmará como Cristo, y a través de su sacrificio que se alcanzará la absolución de los pecados, y el principio de un nuevo tiempo a partir del surgimiento de la iglesia católica con el Fuego Nuevo.

Sin embargo, en este proceso, el Jueves Santo que hoy se conmemora, es un día de gran importancia, comienza cuando Jesús hace muestra de su inconmensurable humildad con el lavatorio de pies, es decir, se reconoce como hijo de Dios más no como ser superior antes sus hermanos los otros seres humanos.

Pues, debemos recordar que durante su retiro en de cuarenta días en el desierto Jesús venció las tentaciones de Satanás quien le había ofrecido hacerlo rey del mundo, mas Jesús había rechazado tal propuesta, él quería llegar al cielo con su padre Dios como un ser misericordioso. De esta manera, al lavar los pies de sus apóstoles hace testimonio de su servicio al otro, a sus hermanos.

Más tarde sucede la última cena, cuando Jesús ofrece pan y vino a sus discípulos: "Éste es el cuerpo y la sangre de Dios", como símbolo de su entrega y devoción.

Por la noche, cuando se van a orar al huerto de Getsemaní, Judas le da un beso a Jesús para que lo identifiques, entregándolo así para que Jesús sea arrestado. Judas lo ha vendido a cambio de 30 monedas de plata.

Una vez que Jesús ha sido arrestado lo llevan a visitar siete reyes o siete autoridades para que uno de ellos sea quien se ocupe de juzgarlo. Finalmente, Jesús es entregado a Poncio Pilatos, quien decidirá cuál será su destino. No obstante, Poncio Pilatos tampoco quiere lidiar con ello, mas no logra evadir la situación.

A la mañana siguiente frente a los judíos, se lleva a cabo el juicio. Poncio Pilatos les dice que él no encuentra que Jesús haya cometido algún delito, de manera que no hay razón para castigarlo. Y aprovechando que en la pascua judía se liberaba a un preso, Pilatos les dice que si quieren liberarlo a Jesús o que si prefieren liberar a Barrabás. Los judíos salvan a Barrabás.

Una vez que los judíos piden a Pilatos castigue a Jesús, empieza el Viacrucis, que es cuando lo azotan y le ponen la corona de espinas y un manto púrpura en símbolo de que es parte de la Realeza, es rey, tiene su manto y corona de espinas.

En Iberoamérica, el viacrucis es de tal importancia que se lleva a cabo representaciones en ciudades y pueblos en las que hombres cargan sus cruces hasta el lugar en el que se llevará a cabo la crucifixión. Es importante saber que la conmemoración se lleva a cabo con actos realistas, sí reciben parte de la práctica de los azotes aunque sean sólo simulados.

Jesús lleva su cruz camino al calvario, al llegar al monte de Gólgota lo crucifican como era la práctica en la cruz. Sin embargo, en aquella época no morían en la cruz, sino que los ataban a la cruz, que es como estaban dos ladrones uno de cada lado de Jesús. A diferencia de los dos ladrones, Dimas y Gestas, a Jesús lo crucifican con clavos, y en la parte de arriba ponen la inscripción que dice que es Jesús el nazareno, rey de los judíos.

Cuando Jesús está en la cruz, pide agua porque tiene sed, le dan vinagre. Cuando escupe el vinagre

mira al cielo y exclama sus palabras que afirmaban que todo se había cumplida, no sólo eso, le pide a dios: "Padre, perdónalos, no saben lo que hacen".

A las tres de la tarde, un centurión romano le clava en el costado izquierdo su lanza. Los cielos se cierra y se oscurece todo. Los ríos y mares se pintan de sangre. Jesús ha muerto. Lo llevan a su tumba, donde dejan su cuerpo a descansar. En la tarde del Viernes Santo, se lleva a cabo "La procesión del silencio", para acompañar a la Virgen María en su pena por la pérdida de su hijo.

Al tercer día resucita Jesús, por lo tanto, el sábado por la noche se celebra el fuego nuevo que es la ceremonia más importante del calendario católico.

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